

present 'Verhandlungen.' The volume contains, besides the proceedings of the Society for 1903 and a list of its members, several original contributions to our knowledge of Bavarian Ornithology, which will be of interest to students of Palearctic Bird-life. Our active friend Dr. Carl Parrot, of Munich, the President of the Society, is also the editor of its periodical.

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XLII.—*Obituary.*

WILLIAM THOMAS BLANFORD, C.I.E., LL.D., F.R.S.,  
and LICUT. SUTTON AYLMER DAVIES.

It is my sad task to chronicle the death of one of our most talented members, one who became a Fellow of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1873, and whose well-known face and figure have been seen for many years taking an active part at all scientific gatherings. He passed away on the 23rd of June last, at the age of 72, at his residence in Bedford Gardens, Campden Hill. Although for some time his friends had noticed his failing strength, the news of his death came as an unexpected shock to many. Science has lost in William Blanford one of its most profound thinkers, and the Societies to which he belonged mourn for a Fellow who early in his career began to enrich the pages of their Journals.

The list of the works and papers contributed by Dr. Blanford reaches nearly 180. The product of some years is surprising, not only for the number of papers that were written, but for the wide range of subjects which they cover in Geology, Geography, and Zoology; and in this last are comprised papers on Mammals, Reptiles, Birds, and Mollusca: all excellent of their kind. Space does not admit of the record of his long service when employed on the Geological Survey of India, to which he was appointed in 1855—this will be alluded to in other obituary notices, as it has been in 'Nature'; neither need I touch on his early life and education, and the honours he gained, for the details of these will be found in an excellent account by

Dr. Henry Woodward, published in the 'Geological Magazine,' Jan. 1905 ("Eminent living Geologists").

Blanford's knowledge of zoology, combined with his extensive acquaintance with the physical features and geology of a large area in Europe and Asia, render all his writings of peculiar value and interest. His work in the field had taken him over the greater part of Peninsular India, Burma, the Eastern Himalaya (Sikhim), as well as Scinde and, still farther afield, Persia and Abyssinia; thus physical geography and the distribution of life in the past and in the present enter largely into the papers contributed by him, and suggest so much for others to work out.

Few men of his time were better qualified to deal with the zoological subdivisions of the Oriental Region and fix their bounds. His paper on "The Distribution of Vertebrate Animals in India, Ceylon, and Burma"\* is a monument of careful and laborious research, indicating how certain geological changes in elevation of the land with others of temperature within the region have affected that distribution.

With regard to the special work of this Union:—The birds of the different zoological divisions are well worked out, for in ornithology Blanford did some excellent work, as some 30 of his papers testify, to which must be added the descriptive catalogues to be found in his books on the 'Geology and Zoology of Abyssinia (1867-68)'; and 'Eastern Persia: Journeys of the Persian Boundary Commission (1870-72).' His knowledge of the birds of the Eastern Himalaya was the outcome of a tour made in Sikhim, accompanied by Captain H. J. Elwes, of which a very interesting account is to be found in the pages of the 'Journal Asiatic Soc. of Bengal' (1871). On this trip, the first scientific exploration of Sikhim since that of Sir Joseph Hooker, Blanford collected largely, principally Birds and the Land-Mollusca, while those of his colleague were no less valuable.

Since his retirement from the Indian Service in 1882, his time may be said to have been devoted to the advancement

\* Phil. Trans. Royal Soc. of London, 1901.

of science, serving on the Councils of the Royal Society, the Geological, Geographical, Zoological, &c., and taking part in the discussion of papers or the delivery of his own Presidential Addresses. The Government of India often sought his advice, and entrusted to him the Editorship of a series of volumes on the Fauna of India, of which seventeen have been published—the whole of the Vertebrata, and others on the Insecta and Arachnida. Out of the four volumes on the Birds of India, two were contributed by Dr. Blanford. His last work for this series, on which he was engaged up to within a few days of his death, was ‘The Land-Mollusca’—perhaps one of his most favourite studies. I believe I am right in saying the land and freshwater shells were the first to attract his attention and to be collected by him after his arrival in India, and they were the last to which his thoughts were directed.

It has been the writer’s good fortune to have seen very much of the Member we have lost, for our correspondence extended over nearly 40 years both in India and in this country. With subjects and interests in common, I thankfully acknowledge that my friend certainly to a great extent directed my Natural History work, and my formation of a collection of the Indian Land-Mollusca and serious study of the subject were very much due to association with both Henry and William Blanford. It added not a little for many years to an enjoyment of life in the jungle, when carrying on survey-operations in India. Blanford took an interest in every worker and collector he came across, and inasmuch as he was always ready to help with his advice and experience, all must have felt the charm of his society.

Besides being a naturalist he was a keen sportsman, the one often makes the other—with gun or rod in hand no one enjoyed his day more. It is only in the life spent in camp, with its curious contrasts of pleasure and discomfort, in the hours of walking through the stubbles or standing by the covert side, that one really gets to know all that there is of good in a friend’s nature. William Blanford could enter into such pleasures, and his knowledge of Nature had been

increased thereby; he will be missed not only as a man of science, as a fellow-worker, but as a friend by many members of the British Ornithologists' Union.—H. H. G.-A.

## PAPERS BY DR. BLANFORD.

- Letter on various rare Indian Birds. *Ibis*, 1867, p. 461.
- On a new Species of *Callene* (*C. albiventris*) from the Pulney Hills in Southern India. *P. Z. S.* 1867, p. 832.
- Descriptions of Five Birds and a Hare from Abyssinia. *Ann. & Mag. N. H.* (4) iv. p. 329 (1869).
- Ornithological Notes, chiefly on some Birds of Central, Western, and Southern India. *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xxxviii. pt. 2, p. 164 (1869).
- List of Birds obtained in the Irawadi Valley around Ava, Thayet Myo, and Bassein. *Ibis*, 1870, p. 462.
- List of Birds collected or observed in the Wardha Valley and its Vicinity, near Chánda. *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xl. pt. 2, p. 268 (1871).
- Notes on Three new Birds from Sikkim (*Phylloscopus pallidipes*, *Pellorneum mandellii*, and *Propasser saturatus*). *Proc. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, 1871, p. 215.
- Description of a new Himalayan Finch, *Procarduelis rubescens*. *P. Z. S.* 1871, p. 693.
- Notes on a Collection of Birds from Sikkim. *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xli. pt. 2, p. 152 (1872).
- Descriptions of new Species of *Nectarinia*, *Sitta*, and *Parus* from Persia and Baluchistan. *Ibis*, 1873, p. 86.
- Descriptions of a new Jay and a Woodpecker from Persia. *Ibis*, 1873, p. 225.
- Notes on 'Stray Feathers.' *Ibis*, 1873, p. 211.
- Notes on the Synonymy of some Indian and Persian Birds, with Descriptions of Two new Species from Persia. *Ibis*, 1874, p. 75.
- Hypocolius ampelinus* in Sind. *Str. Feathers*, iii. p. 35<sup>n</sup> (1875).
- Notes on the Synonymy of *Spizalanda*. *Str. Feathers*, iv. p. 237 (1876).
- A few Additions to the Sind Avifauna. *Str. Feathers*, v. p. 245 (1877).
- Notes on some Birds in Mr. Mandelli's Collection from Sikkim, Bhutan, and Tibet. *Str. Feathers*, v. p. 482.
- Wild Swans in Sind. *Str. Feathers*, vii. p. 99 (1878).
- Description of *Ruticilla schisticeps* Hodgs. *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xlvii. pt. 2, p. 1 (1878).
- Notes on the List (by A. O. Hume) of the Birds of India. *Str. Feathers*, viii. p. 176 (1879).
- On a Species of *Trochalopteron* (*T. meridionale*) from Travancore. *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xlix. pt. 2, p. 142 (1880).
- On the Scientific Name of a Himalayan Cuckoo. *P. Z. S.* 1893, p. 315
- On some Genera of Oriental Barbets. *Ibis*, 1893, p. 234.

- On the Scientific Names of the Imperial and Spotted Eagles and on the Generic Names of Bonelli's Eagle and the Black Eagle. *Ibis*, 1894, p. 283.
- Notes on the Indian Owls. *Ibis*, 1894, p. 524.
- The Nepal Wild Swan (*Cygnus musicus*, not *C. bewicki*). Journ. Bombay N. H. Soc. xi. p. 306.
- The Distribution of Vertebrate Animals in India, Ceylon, and Burma. Phil. Trans. ser. B, vol. 194, pp. 335-436.
- Notes on the Specimens in the Berlin Museum collected by Hemprich and Ehrenberg. (By H. E. Dresser and W. T. Blanford.) *Ibis*, 1874, p. 335.
- Monograph of the Genus *Saricola*, Bechstein. (By W. T. Blanford and H. E. Dresser.) P. Z. S. 1874, p. 218.

## BOOKS.

- Observations on the Geology and Zoology of Abyssinia, made during the Progress of the British Expedition to that Country in 1867-68. 8vo. London, 1870.  
(Birds, pp. 285-443.)
- Eastern Persia: an Account of the Journeys of the Persian Boundary Commission, 1870-72. Vol. ii. Zoology. 8vo. London, 1876.  
(Birds, pp. 98-304.)
- Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Edited by W. T. Blanford. 17 vols. published. 8vo. London. 1888-1905.  
(Birds, vols. iii. & iv., by W. T. Blanford, 1895-98.)

SUTTON AYLMEY DAVIES, Lieutenant in the East Lancashire Regiment, was a promising young naturalist who joined the B. O. U. in 1899. It will be remembered that he accompanied Mr. John Stares to Lapland last year, and an account of their trip appeared in 'The Ibis' for January. Amongst other successes, they found the nest and eggs of the Dusky Redshank. His untimely death by the capsizing of a boat on the Kuadakwasla Lake, near Poona, in May last, is to be much regretted.

XLIII.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

WE have received the following letters addressed to "The Editors of 'The Ibis'":—

SIRS,—At a meeting of the B. O. Club held on March 15th of this year, I had the pleasure of exhibiting an adult male